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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/564,965	07/20/2006	Volker Entenmann	095309.57283US	5401
23911	7590	03/24/2008	EXAMINER	
CROWELL & MORING LLP INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP P.O. BOX 14300 WASHINGTON, DC 20044-4300			FAN, HONGMIN	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2612		
		MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE
		03/24/2008		PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/564,965	ENTENMANN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	HONGMIN FAN	2612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 January 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 12-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 12-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/28/2007</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because Fig. 2 needs legends in order to show claimed features. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

Claim 13 is objected to because of the following informalities: at the end of line 4, there should not be a period since the sentence continues onto line 5.

Claim 14 is objected to because of the following informalities: at beginning of line 1, the words "display and" should be deleted.

Claim 15 is objected to because of the following informalities: line 4, 2nd and 3rd word "voice output" are redundant and should be deleted.

Claim 23 is objected to because of the following informalities: at beginning of line 1, the words "display and" should be deleted.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 12, 14-23, 25, 27, 29-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by McLain et al (US 7280035).

As to claim 12, 14-15, referring to Fig. 2, McLain et al disclosed methods and apparatus for vehicle door swing detection and protection having the claimed limitations, comprising measuring distance D between the door and the object (i.e. urgency level), comparing D(INIT) to D(SAFE) where D(INIT) is the distance to the object before the door is opened and D(SAFE) is a distance from the vehicle reached by the door at its maximum possible outward movement absent the object, and determining whether the door is moving toward the object, and if so turning on a warning (col. 1, line 59-66); the

controller activates a first driver warning when the initial door-to-object spacing D(INIT)<D(SAFE), the maximum outward door reach absent the object. A second warning is desirably added when the door begins moving toward the object or has reached about (D(INIT))/2 (col. 1, line 48-53); the first warning is merely visual but this is not essential (col. 5, line 26-27), audible warning unit 481 can be used to sound a buzzer or tone or speak (i.e. low level) (col. 5, line 21-22); In step 116 (i.e. high degree of urgency), more urgent condition is announced by warning unit 48 and the audible warning tone or buzzer or voice can be increased in volume (i.e. high level) or begin warbling or speak a difference message (col. 5, line 57-61).

As to claim 16, McLain et al disclosed the audible warning speak a difference message (e.g., "Watch out! Watch out! Door bump imminent on the left/right!", etc.) (i.e. a type of danger) (col. 5, line 59-61).

As to claim 17, referring to Fig. 2, McLain et al disclosed door sensors 52 used in evaluating situation.

As to claim 18, the claim is interpreted and rejected as claim 12.

As to claim 19, the claim is interpreted and rejected as claim 14.

As to claim 20, the claim is interpreted and rejected as claim 15.

As to claim 21, the claim is interpreted and rejected as claim 16.

As to claim 22, the claim is interpreted and rejected as claim 17.

As to claim 23, the claim is interpreted and rejected as claim 14.

As to claim 25, the claim is interpreted and rejected as claim 15.

As to claim 27, the claim is interpreted and rejected as claim 16.

As to claim 29, the claim is interpreted and rejected as claim 14.

As to claim 30, the claim is interpreted and rejected as claim 15.

As to claim 31, the claim is interpreted and rejected as claim 16.

Claims 13, 24, 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Saito (US Pub. 2001/0008992).

As to claim 13 and 24, referring to Fig. 1, Saito disclosed a periphery monitoring device for vehicle having claimed limitations, wherein if the expected timing of collision is earlier than a prescribed timing, under the decision that there is a high degree of danger, an audio guidance signal is issued so that the speaker 71 announces that "Collision occurs", "Immediately avoid the collision". On the other hand, if the expected timing of collision is not earlier than the prescribed timing, under the decision that there is a low degree of danger, the audio guidance signal is issued so that "Collision may occur", "Pay attention" (¶0088).

As to claim 28, still referring to Fig. 1, Saito disclosed a speed detection 3 (i.e. sensor).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito in view of Iwasaki et al (US 6097311).

As to claim 26, Saito did not disclose a warning includes a type of danger. However, it is known in the art to have a warning including a type of danger. Iwasaki et al teach a warning device for vehicle wherein when this judgment finds the rear-end collision alarm as the answer, the rear-end collision alarm is displayed, namely the red color LED 22c disposed in the display part 10 is flickered (step S123). When the judgment finds the car-to-car alert alarm as the answer, the car-to-car alert alarm is displayed, namely the orange color LED 22b or the green color LED 22a is lighted (col. 17, line 20-30). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate a warning including a type of danger in Saito's system since it is known in the art.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hongmin Fan whose telephone number is 571-272-2784. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffery Hofsass can be reached on 571-272-2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HF

/Davetta W. Goins/
Acting SPE of Art Unit 2612